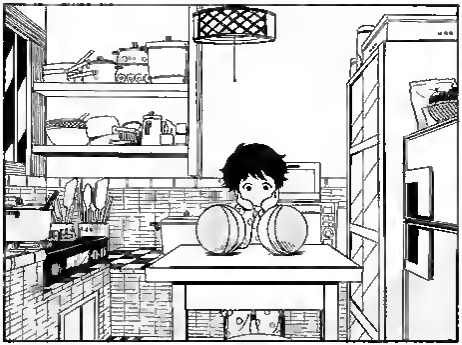
舞妓さんちのまかないさん

Chapter 24: New Year's Eve at the Kagai

小山愛子

HELLO? YES, THANK YOU. I'LL STOP BY FOR A BIT.
RING RING
I'LL BE BACK BY 3 O' CLOCK
KIYO, I'M GOING NOW.
YES, MOTHER.
HERE'S A NEW YEAR'S GIFT FROM ME
REMEMBER TO LOCK UP THE DOOR CAREFULLY WHEN MOMOHANA COMES BACK.
LOOKS LIKE I WON'T BE BACK BEFORE 4.
OKAY.
OH? OOPS

In the Kaga, it is tradition to give out a "Fortune Ball" or "fukudama" at the end of a year as a lucky charm.
THIS IS FOR YOU AND MOMOHANA, THE ONLY TWO PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL HERE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.
Within each of the pink and white, thin-mochi-skin-like spheres,
different surprises await
SHAKE
SHAKE
DON'T TREAT IT SO ROUGHLY. IT MIGHT BREAK.
YOU CAN'T OPEN THEM UNTIL THE NEW YEAR'S BELL IS OVER.
RING RING
YES, RIGHT AWAY.
bow

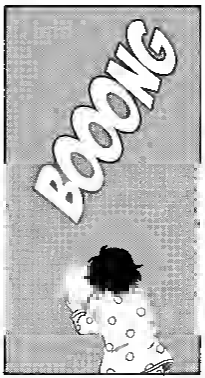


Fidget
Fidget

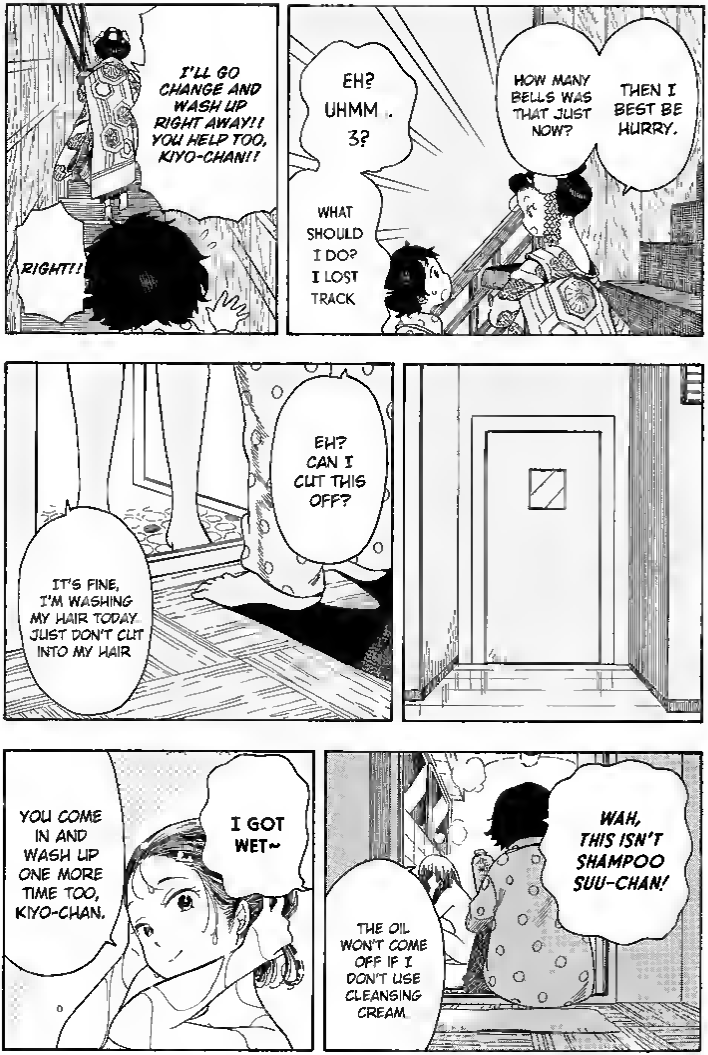
SUU-CHAN SURE IS LATE...
Fidget
Fidget

I'M HOME
TWO

IT'S THE NEW YEAR'S BELL!!
ONE


BOOONG

EH?
HURRY, HURRY!!
SUU-CHAN, WELCOME BACK!!
THREE
BOOOING
FOUR
MOTHER GAVE US NEW YEAR'S GIFTS!
ONE FOR EACH OF US
LET'S OPEN THEM TOGETHER WHEN THE NEW YEAR'S BELL IS OVER!!
OKAY?
OKAY?
SURE.
OF COURSE.


I'LL GO CHANGE AND WASH UP RIGHT AWAY!! YOU HELP TOO, KIYO-CHAN!!
RIGHT!!
EH? UHMM . . . 3?
WHAT SHOULD I DO? I LOST TRACK
HOW MANY BELLS WAS THAT JUST NOW?
THEN I BEST BE HURRY.
EH? CAN I CUT THIS OFF?
IT'S FINE, I'M WASHING MY HAIR TODAY. JUST DON'T CUT INTO MY HAIR
YOU COME IN AND WASH UP ONE MORE TIME TOO, KIYO-CHAN.
I GOT WET~
WAH, THIS ISN'T SHAMPOO SUU-CHAN!
THE OIL WON'T COME OFF IF I DON'T USE CLEANSING CREAM.

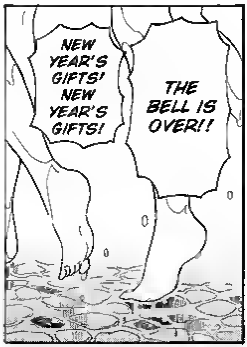
noisy
chatter
noisy
chatter
noisy
chatter

EVERYONE ALREADY WENT HOME FOR NEW YEAR'S.
WE CAN SLEEP TOGETHER IN MY ROOM TONIGHT.
OKAY?
HEY, DO YOU WANT TO OPEN THIS IN MY ROOM?
SURE.
I WONDER WHAT'S INSIDE
MAYBE A LUCKY CHARM TO TELL YOUR FORTUNE FOR THE NEW YEAR?
LIKE, IF YOU GET AN ORNAMENT FOR YOUR DRESSER, THEN THAT MEANS "TONS OF NEW CLOTHES"?
OR LIKE A HOME BAKERY ORNAMENT.
ISN'T THAT JUST WHAT YOU WANT TO HAVE?

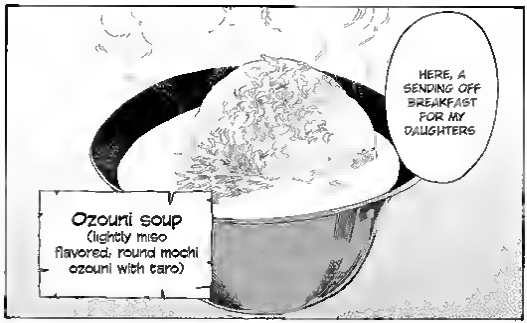
GOOD MORNING.
shake
shake
I'm SLEEPY~
SHHSSHH, MOTHER IS STILL SLEEPING..
SEEMS LIKE THE ONLY TIME I GET TO DO ANYTHING LIKE AN ACTUAL MOTHER IS AROUND NEW YEAR'S, HUH
MOTHER.
HERE, A SENDING OFF BREAKFAST FOR MY DAUGHTERS.
Ozouni soup
(lightly miso flavored, round mochi ozouni with taro)

ABOUT THAT...
OTHER THAN THAT, HAVE YOU TWO OPENED YOUR NEW YEAR'S GIFTS?
HM? ISN'T THIS JUST NORMAL OZOUNI?
THE TARO CHUNKS ARE HUGE!!
IT'S WHITE!!
It's miso!!
I GOT AN ASSORTMENT OF SWEETS.
AND KIYO-CHAN...
I GOT AN ORNAMENT FOR MY SHAMISEN.
IT MEANS "IMPROVING ARTISTIC SKILLS", I GUESS?
"EVERY-THING WILL CONTINUE LIKE AL-WAYS"?
"NOTHING SPECIAL HINTED FOR THE NEW YEAR".
I DON'T THINK IT MEANS ANYTHING.
I WONDER WHAT IT MEANS...

TL-Notes:



NEW YEAR BELL: AS NEW YEAR DRAWS NEAR, A TEMPLE BELL IS RUNG 108 TIMES TO CLEANSE OFF THE 108 HUMAN DESIRES. THE LAST BELL SIGNALS THE START OF A NEW YEAR.



O-ZOUNI: A MOCHI RICE CAKE SUBMERGED IN SOUP. A STAPLE DISH IN THE JAPANESE NEW YEAR. IN SOME ISLANDS OR MOUNTAINOUS AREAS WHERE RICE IS NOT GROWN TO A LARGE EXTENT, MOCHI CAN BE SUBSTITUTED WITH TARO OR TOFU (THIS IS WHY MOTHER WAS A BIT CONFUSED WHEN THE 2 ACTED SURPRISED ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THEIR ZOUNI)

/a/nonymous presents:

1

maiko-san chi no makanai-san

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